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Letter dated 31 July 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have pleasure in enclosing an assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Tunisian presidency in February 2001 (see annex).

This assessment has been prepared under the responsibility of the Tunisian delegation, in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451). The members of the Security Council have been consulted on its content. It should, however, not be considered as representing the views of the Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mokhtar **Chaouachi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 31 July 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council

Tunisia (February 2001)

Introduction

In February, under the presidency of Mr. Saïd Ben Mustapha, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, the Security Council held 11 open meetings, 3 closed meetings, 15 closed sessions of consultations of the whole, and 2 meetings with troop-contributing countries. It heard two heads of State, the Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Political Committee for the Implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. It also heard Sir Ketumile Masire, Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. When it considered the question of Angola, the Council heard the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Angola.

The Council considered a range of issues concerning various missions around the world. It considered the situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Great Lakes region, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Angola, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Western Sahara, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, Kosovo and Haiti.

At the initiative of the Tunisian presidency of the Council, the Council held an open debate on the topic "Peace-building: towards a comprehensive approach".

The Council adopted three resolutions and approved two presidential statements. The President also made two statements to the press on behalf of Council members.

Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, presided at the Council's meeting on 7 February, on the situation in the Great Lakes region.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Council held a series of meetings and consultations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region. In that connection, it was briefed by President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and President Paul Kagame, as well as the Political Committee for the Implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. In its resolution 1332 (2000), adopted on 14 December 2000, the Council had referred to the possibility of holding a follow-up meeting of the signatories to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. In view of developments concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, the meetings in question were particularly important.

On 2 February, Council members met in consultations of the whole for a briefing by Mr. Kamel Morjane, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, concerning developments following the death of President Laurent-Désiré Kabila and the content of the statement made on 26 January 2001 by the new President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Joseph Kabila.

Also on 26 January 2001, at an open meeting (4271st meeting) the Council was briefed by the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 15 February, the Council met in consultations of the whole to consider the sixth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, introduced the report. In particular, the Council discussed the recommendations made by the Secretary-General, including the recommendation concerning the revised concept of MONUC.

On 20 February, the Council once again met in consultations of the whole for a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo on developments following the Lusaka summit, held on 8 February. The Council also considered a draft resolution.

On 21 February, the Council held an open meeting with the members of the Political Committee

for the Implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (4279th meeting); it then held a closed meeting, following which an official communiqué was issued (S/PV.4280).

At these meetings there was an exchange of views on the situation regarding the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region and on prospects in that connection. Participants expressed the view that developments in the region represented an opportunity to advance the peace process that must be seized.

On 22 February, the Council was briefed at a closed meeting by Sir Ketumile Masire, Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, who reported on the situation regarding the dialogue and the prospects for relaunching it. Following the meeting, an official communiqué was issued (S/PV.4281).

On 22 February, the Council also adopted resolution 1341 (2001). In the resolution, the Council reaffirmed the authorization contained in resolution 1291 (2000) and the mandate set out in its resolution for the expansion and deployment of MONUC, and endorsed the updated concept of operations put forward by the Secretary-General in his report of 12 February 2001, with a view to the deployment of all the civilian and military personnel required to monitor and verify the implementation by the parties of the ceasefire and disengagement plans.

The situation in the Great Lakes region

On 7 February, at an open meeting on the situation in the Great Lakes region, Mr. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, briefed the Council (see S/PV.4273). Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, presided at the meeting.

Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia

On 12 February, the Council held a closed meeting with the Mediation and Security Committee of the Economic Community of West African States. At the meeting, there was an exchange of views on the situation in the subregion and on the coordination of efforts with a view to restoring peace and security.

Sierra Leone

In connection with the monitoring of the situation in Sierra Leone, on 14 February the Council met in consultations of the whole for a briefing by Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), on the situation in the country, UNAMISIL activities on the ground, and contacts with the Revolutionary United Front with a view to considering ways of implementing the Abuja Ceasefire Agreement.

Angola

On 22 February, the Council held an open debate on the report of the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) (see S/PV.4283). The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Angola, Mr. João Bernardo de Miranda, took part in the debate.

Introducing the report of the Monitoring Mechanism, Ambassador Richard Ryan of Ireland, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola, said that the sanctions regime against UNITA was working and that it was now much more difficult and more expensive for UNITA to conduct business. He said that it was also riskier and less attractive for States and commercial suppliers to engage in business with UNITA. He stressed that it would be necessary for the Council to maintain the effectiveness of the sanctions regime until the objectives of the resolutions concerned were achieved.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

On 9 February, the Council met in consultations of the whole on the question of Eritrea and Ethiopia for a briefing by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, on recent developments regarding those two countries. In accordance with the agreement of 6 February, the parties agreed to move forward with the establishment of a temporary security zone.

At a formal meeting following the consultations, the Council approved a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/4).

Western Sahara

On 23 February, the Council met in consultations of the whole to consider the report of the Secretary-

General on Western Sahara (S/2001/148), which was introduced by Mr. William Eagleton, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara.

On 27 February, the Council adopted resolution 1342 (2001), extending the mandate of MINURSO to 31 April 2001.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

On 13 February, the Council met in consultations of the whole to discuss the verdict rendered by the Scottish court in the Lockerbie case.

Asia and Middle East

Lebanon

On 2 February, the Council heard a communication from the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the most recent developments in the blue line zone.

At consultations held on 16 February, the Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the incidents that had occurred in southern Lebanon.

Iraq

On 28 February, the Council met in consultations of the whole to be briefed by the Secretary-General on his talks on 26 and 27 February at United Nations Headquarters with the Iraqi delegation led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq.

Afghanistan

At consultations on 12 February, the Council was briefed by Mr. Francesc Venderell, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the Special Mission to Afghanistan on developments in that country, where fighting was continuing and the humanitarian situation was further deteriorating. The Council authorized the President to make a statement to the press (see below).

Balkans

Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

On 13 February, at an open meeting on Kosovo, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on developments on the ground and the priorities set by the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hans Haekkerup, who replaced Mr. Bernard Kouchner.

At its consultations on 16 February, the Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, on incidents that had occurred that week in Kosovo. Following the consultations, the Council authorized the President to make a statement to the press.

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

On 8 February, the Council adopted resolution 1340 (2001) transmitting to the General Assembly the nominations for Permanent Judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Haiti

On 12 February in consultations of the whole, the Council was briefed by Mr. Alfredo Lopes Cabral, representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH) on the activities carried out by MICAH, on political developments in the country and on MICAH achievements.

Peace-building

On 5 February, the Council held an open debate on the topic "Peace-building: towards a comprehensive approach", in which United Nations Member States not members of the Council participated, in addition to Council members (see S/PV.4272 and S/PV.4272 (Resumption 1)). In a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2001/82), Tunisia proposed points for discussion in the debate.

The debate focused on the role of peace-building as an instrument for ensuring a durable peace and for tackling the root causes of conflicts. Participants in the debate stressed action taken by the Council and other

United Nations organs in the area in question. A number of ideas were put forward on the elaboration of a comprehensive peace-building strategy, coordination among the various actors and identification of the roles to be played by the individual actors, in accordance with their prerogatives and specific fields of action.

The ideas put forward during the debate were discussed in the presidential statement of 20 February (S/PRST/2001/5).

At consultations of the whole held on 14 February, the Council was briefed by Mr. Kieran Prendergast, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on the conclusions reached at the Fourth United Nations/Regional Organizations High-level Meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 6 and 7 February.

Statements to the press by the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Haiti (12 February 2001)

Members of the Council heard a briefing by Mr. Alfredo Lopes Cabral, Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti and Head of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH). Members of the Council congratulated Mr. Lopes Cabral on his outstanding work in Haiti as Representative of the Secretary-General and head of MIPONUH and subsequently of MICAH.

Members of the Council took note of the end of the mandate of MICAH. They called on the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to continue to work in close cooperation with the Haitian authorities in order to restructure the police and the justice system and strengthen human rights. The members of the Council invited the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the Haitian authorities, to keep the Council informed on the further role of the United Nations in Haiti.

Members of the Council called on the Haitian authorities and politicians to continue actively their efforts at reconciliation and to resolve their differences through dialogue. They encouraged the Organization of American States, and particularly its Secretary-General, to continue to identify options and recommendations aimed at resolving the current political situation.

Afghanistan (12 February 2001)

The members of the Security Council were briefed by the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on the overall situation in Afghanistan, including the humanitarian crisis, the decline in illicit narcotics production, and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1333 (2000).

The members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern at the seriousness of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. They noted that several hundreds of thousands of people have left their homes and are in makeshift camps with insufficient shelter and facilities. Most of these people are internally displaced within Afghanistan, while those who have recently crossed into Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran as refugees have placed an additional burden on efforts to support the already large Afghan refugee community there. The members of the Council strongly urged international donors to make additional resources available to the United Nations consolidated appeal for Afghanistan.

The members of the Security Council expressed their strong support for the ongoing activities of the Personal Representative and regretted the lack of progress in the process of dialogue agreed on 2 November 2000, which the two warring sides pledged not to abandon unilaterally. The members deplored the continued fighting and reiterated that there is no military solution to the conflict. They emphasized that territorial gains do not constitute the basis for the legitimization of power. They called on the warring parties to cease hostilities and to start the negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General and his Personal Representative aimed at the formation of a broadly based government, acceptable to all Afghans.

The members of the Security Council further noted that the Taliban have not taken any steps to comply with its resolutions 1333 (2000) or 1267 (1999), and condemned the Taliban's continued support for the export of terrorism and their refusal to hand over the indicted terrorist Usama bin Laden. They noted, however, that the ban on poppy production imposed by the Taliban appeared to be having an

effect, and that a decrease in production had been detected by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

The members of the Security Council discussed the implications of resolution 1333 (2000), reaffirmed their commitment to fulfil their obligations under the resolution and called on all States to fully abide by the resolution. The members stressed the need for a constructive role to be played by neighbouring States.

The members of the Security Council expressed deep concern at reports of the deliberate killing of civilians in the Yakawlang area of Hazarajat in January and demanded that the warring sides comply with international humanitarian norms as well as their own commitment to respect the rights of the civilian population.